

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 113169  
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 IO-13 ACDA-07 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 /088 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:RPERRY  
APPROVED BY AF:AMB. BOLEN  
AF/S:DKEOGH

-----172310Z 049998 /75

O 172147Z MAY 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 113169

MADRID FOR VICE PRESIDENT , CAPE TOWN FOR EMB

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR, BC, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIAN INCURSION INTO BOTSWANA

REF: A) STATE 112026; B) GABORONE 1104

1. BOTSWANAN AMBASSADOR MOOKODI CALLED DEPUTY ASSISTANT  
SECRETARY BOLEN AT 12 O'CLOCK NOON MAY 17 AND CONVEYED  
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PAGE 02 STATE 113169

FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT HE HAD RECEIVED FROM THE OFFICE  
OF PRESIDENT KHAMA.

2. "THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT HAS FURTHER ANNOUNCED  
THAT THE CONTINGENT OF THE REBEL RHODESIAN SECURITY  
FORCES WHICH ATTACKED THE BOTSWANA DEFENSE FORCES CAMP  
AT MATOKA VILLAGE CONSISTED OF A COMPANY OF MORE THAN

150 MEN. ON REALIZING THAT THE INVADING RHODESIAN SOLDIERS WERE SUPERIOR IN NUMBERS, THE BOTSWANA DEFENSE FORCES SECTION CONSISTING OF 50 MEN WITHDREW FROM THE BASE CAMPS AND FIRED BACK FROM SAFER POSITIONS. FIGHTING WENT ON FOR MORE THAN TWO HOURS. AFTER THE BOTSWANA DEFENSE FORCES SECTION HAD WITHDREW FROM THE CAMP, THE FORCES OF THE ILLEGAL REGIME DESTROYED THE CAMP AND SOME STORES WHICH HAD BEEN LEFT IN THE CAMP USING HAND GRENADES

OF THE SAME TYPE AS THE ONE WHICH WAS USED AT MOPHANE IN FRANCISTOWN ON THE 6TH OF MAY THIS YEAR.

3. "BOTSWANA DEFENSE FORCES REENFORCEMENTS HAVE NOW BEEN SENT TO THE AREA BUT WHEN THEY GOT THERE THE REBEL FORCES HAD WITHDRAWN AND HAD STOLEN SOME COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT WHICH HAD BEEN LEFT AT THE BOTSWANA DEFENSE FORCES CAMP. MINISTER KWELAGOBÉ WHO IS CURRENTLY ON A TOUR OF SOME OF THE VILLAGES AROUND FRANCISTOWN WENT TO THE AREA WITH THE BOTSWANA DEFENSE FORCES REENFORCEMENTS THIS EVENING.

4. "THE REBEL REGIME HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT ADMITTING THAT ITS FORCES HAVE CROSSED INTO BOTSWANA BUT CLAIMING THAT THEY WERE PURSUING FREEDOM FIGHTERS. THIS IS A BOGUS PRETEXT WHICH THE REGIME IS USING TO JUSTIFY ITS UNPROVOKED ACTS OF AGGRESSION AGAINST BOTSWANA. THERE WERE NO FREEDOM FIGHTERS IN THE AREA." END TEXT.

5. AMBASSADOR BOLEN ON DEPT'S BEHALF CONVEYED TO  
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PAGE 03 STATE 113169

MOOKODI TALKING POINTS BEING SENT TO YOU VIA SEPTTEL. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TEXT, ALLEGATIONS, INVASIONS, REPRISALS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RHODESIAN INCURSION INTO BOTSWANA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MOPS, BC, RH  
**To:** GABORONE MADRID MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/c21a6e91-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
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